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### DESPATCHES FROM LIBERIA.

THE Despatch of Governor BUCHANAN to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, which we give below, will be read with interest, and we trust will stimulate our friends to increased efforts, to enable us to carry forward our operations.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, }  
MONROVIA, 13TH DEC., 1840. }

DEAR SIR,—I am happy to inform you of the arrival of the bark Hobart, on the 24th ult., after an unusually long passage of fifty-seven days. For more than three months I had been looking daily for the Saluda, and had just heard that she had sailed from Philadelphia on the 28th August for this place. I was under the greatest anxiety, and scarcely dared hope she had not been lost, when the appearance of her fine substitute, put an end to my apprehensions, and made me grateful and happy.

I give you many thanks for the cheering contents of your various letters of July 3d, 7th, 17th, 30th, and 31st, of August 25th, and Sept. 26th. They were a full compensation for all I had suffered from the suspense and anxiety of so long a silence, and afforded me renewed encouragement to persevere in the arduous duties of my most difficult station. Next to the grateful emotions inspired by the personal kindness exhibited in those communications, I am rejoiced by the intelligence they bring me of the increasing prosperity of the cause of Colonization; and sincerely trust the day is now near at hand when this stupendous scheme of philanthropy will be fully established in the confidence and affections of the whole American people.

In conformity with your request, I shall endeavor to arrange my observations under distinct heads; but if you find me mixing up different subjects before I get through, you must not be surprised. I have to write in such a hurry, and am exposed to so frequent interruptions, that it is very difficult to be methodical.

### THE BARK AND HER CARGO.

The arrival of the Bark happened in just my busiest season," when the civil and political year is drawing to a close, and accounts are to be brought up, reports to be got in from the various settlements, official changes made, and business prepared for the approaching session of our Colonial Legislature. In the midst of these pressing duties, I have been unable to de-

vote as much personal attention to the affairs of the Bark as I otherwise should have done. We have a quantity of produce at Little Bassa and the Kroo Country, which I shall use every exertion possible to have brought here before the forty days [the forty lay' days of the Bark] shall have expired; but, as our Colonial vessels are busily engaged, it is quite doubtful whether I succeed. Could the vessel have remained here six weeks longer, I think there would have been little difficulty in her getting a full cargo, by running down as far as Cape Palmas. As it is, the utmost that can be done will fall far short of your expectations. I need not say how much I regret this. It is always my ambition to meet all your wishes, and indeed to accomplish everything, whether expected or not, that lies within the compass of possibility. But, my dear sir, it is not *possible* to do what you require in this instance, and without intending to find fault, I must say I am surprised, after the repeated explanations I have given you on this point, at the extent of your expectations. For myself, when I consider the amount and kind of goods with which I have been furnished, and what I have accomplished in paying off old debts, fortifying, conducting wars, making improvements, and sustaining the Government, I am astonished, not that I have failed to send home full cargoes, but that I have sent anything at all.

It is easy to secure return cargoes, and to realize large profits from the African trade, if properly conducted, and sufficient capital is employed; but to expect these results without the requisite facilities, time or means to accomplish them, in short, to expect from me, while my time is engrossed by other duties, and the funds supplied me are barely sufficient to ensure the proper discharge of those duties, is expecting too much. I consider trade not only honorable, but a most important agency in the work of civilizing this country; and there can be no reasonable objection to the Society engaging in it for the purpose of increasing her power to do good, provided, that in this pursuit she neglect not the more weighty considerations of duty and obligation. The great *end* of her existence must not be neglected, or compromised by the effort to obtain means for its accomplishment. The efficient administration of the Government—the improvement of the Colony—the encouragement of agriculture and other branches of industry—the fostering of schools and institutions of religion, and even the judicious assistance of the industrious and deserving poor by timely loans, are the objects that should exercise the first care of your agents here, and to which a greater portion of your funds might be most profitably devoted. These objects, with the acquisition of territory, intercourse with the tribes, and the necessary preparations for the reception and settlement of emigrants, should ever be the peculiar concern of the Governor of the Colony; and his time and thoughts should not be diverted from them for any purpose whatever. It is only by a proper attention to these things that the true interests of Liberia can be advanced, and, as a necessary consequence, whatever tends to promote her prosperity, will, in the same ratio, give success and strength to the cause at home. But if, while these great ends receive the chief attention, the operations of trade can also be prosecuted to advantage, they ought not, surely, to be neglected. That they can be, by the employment of sufficient capital, and furnishing the requisite facilities, there is no doubt. You have only to send regular and well assorted cargoes of goods, supply us with one or two small vessels for coasters, and some good lighters, and I think you never need be disappointed of full returns of the productions of the country.

I trust you will not regard what I have here said concerning the relative importance of the duties which have been imposed upon me, as indicative

of a disposition to set up my opinion in opposition to the will of the Board. My only aim is to present my views for their benefit, and to vindicate myself in reference to those things in which I have not been able to meet their expectations. Acting without special instructions on many points, I may have applied more of their funds to the general purposes of my Administration, and less to those of trade, than they approve, as indeed seems to be the case from your letters.

While on this subject I will mention some changes I am making, which will better secure the objects you wish, while our expenses will be considerably lessened thereby :—

#### THE STORES.

Both here and at Grand Bassa I have stopped the retail business entirely, and have given strict orders to credit nothing. At the latter place I have made the still farther change of dismissing our storekeeper and employing him merely as a Commission Merchant. In future he will have no salary, and will be responsible for all the goods placed in his possession, making immediate returns when sold, and receiving the usual commissions, as other merchants in the Colony. After a careful consideration of the whole matter, I was induced to this measure from the following reasons : While we kept up the retailing business it was next to impossible to avoid crediting many poor persons who either have, or fancy they have, claims upon the Society for assistance. Again, the profits amount to very little, when all the expenses peculiar to that branch of our business are taken into account. And the very articles most necessary to keep up an assortment, and which were invariably credited or paid out for labor, are the articles of readiest sale to the merchant (by wholesale) and produce the best payment in return. In casting about for an opportunity of retrenchment which would leave more capital available in the way of trade, it occurred to me that I might suspend some of our plans of improvement at Bassa for the present year, and thus dispense entirely with the services of Mr. SHERIDAN. He entered at once into my views, and agreed to do our business on commission, and at the same time to lend me his assistance from time to time as I might require in overseeing any jobs of work I might have on hand in that county during the season. However if the schooner you promise arrives soon, I shall be able to be down there in person pretty frequently to supervise and push on our operations. I am trying to make some agreement to have the road continued by contract into the Camwood Country. Should there be many emigrants arriving next year, it may be necessary to employ Mr. SHERIDAN after my departure for America. He will give his attention to the erection of the school-house on the Island, and to the clearing and planting of the land. Should we have many emigrants to provision and take care of, our own articles can be served out under the immediate direction of a steward, subject to the supervision of the physician, without interfering at all with the present plan of trade.

Mr. ROBERTS will still continue in charge of the establishment at this place, and will superintend the general affairs of the farm, and all our trading here and elsewhere along the coast. He is a valuable man, and I find him of great service to me in our varied and extensive business.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

There are a great many important things under this head I had intended recommending, but as they are incompatible with the course to which my attention is more especially directed by your letter, of retrenchment and trade, I shall pass over them mostly.



## AGRICULTURE.

The farm on Bushrod Island is at last beginning to make some return for all the expenditure made upon it. We have made a quantity of very beautiful sugar this season, though all the work has been done at the greatest possible disadvantage. Our kettles were too small, our team too weak, and all the materials necessary about the mill were awkward and unsuited to the purposes for which they were used. Besides, we were obliged to work in the dark, there being no one in the Colony to be found, who knew anything about the process of sugar making. Owing to all these circumstances, we have not made more than two-thirds of the sugar that the crop would have yielded, if properly managed. As it is we shall send you a few barrels, and keep some for our own market. The first lot of Liberia sugar must surely fetch a good price in the United States. Our Abolition friends ought to purchase of us, and by patronizing our free sugar, make some compensation for the injury they have done the cause of freedom in persecuting Liberia.

I am planting about ten acres more of sugar cane at present. Several of the colonists will plant this season both here and at Bassa Cove, and in two or three years I think there will be two or three more mills at work in the Colony, when our score of barrels will be increased to some hundreds of hogsheads. As I before informed you, considerable attention has been given this year to coffee planting, but as the season was then over, nothing has been done in this business since my last by the *Atalanta*. Next year, I have no doubt, will see the present number of trees doubled.

One gentleman of this place, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, Colonial Secretary, informs me that he will plant ten acres of land near Monrovia to Indigo—with which, you are aware, this country abounds. From all I can learn, this will be a very productive and profitable crop, and I have no doubt the enterprise of Mr. LEWIS will be abundantly rewarded.

## STATISTICS.

I regret sending this despatch without full statistical returns from the several settlements in the Commonwealth. The returns East of this have not been received, although promised several days ago.

*Monrovia*.—6795 Coffee Trees; 16 1-4 acres in Rice; 16 acres in Cassada; 16 3-4 in Potatoes; total 49 acres:—39 Sheep, 8 Goats, 1193 Fowls, 99 Ducks, 135 Hogs, 2 Turkeys, 56 Cattle; 61 Lots, quarter acre each, in vegetables.

*New Georgia*.—55 acres in Rice; 73 1-4 acres in Cassada; 23 1-4 acres in Potatoes; 5 3-4 acres in Corn; 7 1-4 acres in Peanuts; 1 1-2 acres in Peas; total 166 acres;—426 Fowls, 32 Ducks, 79 Goats, 38 Sheep, 76 Hogs.

*Caldwell*.—19 1-2 acres in Rice; 67 1-4 acres in Potatoes; 58 acres in Cassada; 1 1-2 acres in Peas; 1-2 an acre in Peanuts; 1 acre in Sugar cane; total 147 3-4 acres:—260 Coffee Trees, 38 Croos Peanuts, 250 lbs. Arrow Root, 4 Ducks, 136 Fowls, 22 Hogs, 14 Goats.

*Bushrod Island*.—14 3-4 acres in Potatoes; 5 1-2 acres in Potatoes; total 20 1-4 acres.

*Millsburg*.—25 acres in Cassada; 5 acres in Rice; 23 acres in Potatoes; 9 1-4 acres in Sugar cane; 2 acres in Arrow Root; total 64 1-4 acres:—150 Coffee Trees, 13 Hogs, 37 Sheep, 39 Ducks, 347 Fowls, 1 Cattle.

## SUMMARY.

7205 Coffee Trees; 95 3-4 acres in Rice; 182 1-4 acres in Cassada; 160 1-2 acres in Potatoes; 5 3-4 acres in Corn; 8 3-4 acres in Peanuts, and 38 Croos, do.; quantity of land not known; 3 acres in Peas; 10 1-4 acres in Sugar cane; 27 acres in Arrow Root, and 250 lbs. do., quantity of land not



known; 15 1-4 acres vegetables, say 61 town lots; total under cultivation, including the public farm, 513 1-4 acres:—57 Cattle, 246 Hogs, 114 Sheep, 101 Goats, 2 Turkeys, 174 Ducks, 2102 Fowls.

*The Public Farm.*—50 acres in improvement—say 25 acres in Sugar Cane; 15 acres in Potatoes; 10 acres in Cassada; 2 Yoke of Oxen.

There are about 200 acres of land in cultivation at Bassa Cove, Edina, and Bexley, but considerably more is cleared. I regret that the report of the Agricultural Committee for that County has not reached me yet, and that I am thus deprived of the opportunity of presenting together the statistics of the Agriculture of the whole Colony. The only articles of which I can speak with certainty is Coffee. By a report made to me some time since there were actually growing about 23,000 Coffee Trees in the three settlements of Bassa Cove, Edina, and Bexley.

It should be remembered, that all the land in cultivation in the Colony (about 713 acres,) is worked entirely by hand. The proportion of stock of all kinds, is, I think, greater in Bassa County, than in this. Mr. BENEDICT will probably take the largest premium for Coffee this year, though I cannot speak with certainty until I get the report from Bassa County, when all the premiums will be distributed.

#### BEXLEY.

While at Bassa Cove, I visited Bexley, and was highly gratified at the progress of things among the new emigrants. All are living in comfortable log houses with lots around each covered with a luxuriant growth of cassada, potatoes, corn, beans, plantains, &c. The streets too are all planted. I found some of the men hard at work, cutting and burning the trees and bushes off their farms. I went into every house and inquired particularly of every individual whether they liked their new situation. With the exception of one young man, who was quite sick—and who answered, “I s’pose I should like it, if I was as well as the rest,”—they all expressed themselves in the warmest terms of admiration, and declared nothing would induce them to leave Bexley. I am happy to inform you that they have now entirely recovered from their sickness, and bid fair to do well hereafter. I have some houses building there for the next emigrants, as I consider it one of the most desirable places, in every point of view, there is in the Colony. The land is high, and very finely diversified, so as to suit any variety of crop at all seasons; the soil is good, and the water pure and abundant.

I am in treaty for a strip of land adjoining it, and intervening between it and a much larger tract which lies higher up the river, and which we already own. When this purchase is secured we shall possess the whole right, or northern bank, of the St. John’s river, from the mouth about twelve miles up, and on the other side about six miles from the mouth. This brings me to another head, the acquisition of

#### TERRITORY.

I have been exceedingly desirous, since first receiving your instructions on this subject, to carry them out to the fullest extent, but no means have as yet been afforded me for making the voyage along the coast. From what I can learn of the disposition of the tribes to leeward, particularly between Cape Palmas and Sinou, I am sure we should find no difficulty whatever in negotiating successfully with them. Should I find an opportunity of leaving home after the session of the Council, (which takes place on the 1st of January,) I shall run down to that neighborhood and see what can be done.

#### THE SLAVE TRADE.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to apprise you of the destruction of the slave factories at Gallinas by the Honorable Captain DENMAN, senior offi-

cer of this station. He landed about the middle of last month, with the boats of his own vessel, the "Wanderer," and those of the "Rolla" and "Saracen," eleven in all, carrying from 150 to 200 men. The Spaniards made no resistance, not a gun was fired, but all fled in the greatest consternation to the woods. Though they abandoned all their other property, they succeeded in driving away, with them, nearly all the slaves, and only about one hundred, out of two or three thousand, were captured by the British. The property in the baracoons and factories, to a very large amount, was destroyed on the spot, and the captors kept possession of the place for some days. I have not yet heard what is to be the ultimate disposition of their conquest, but I hope they will not allow the vile slavers again to take possession. Should the English Government not be disposed to retain it, I shall avail myself of the first opportunity to attempt obtaining it by negotiation.

While I was at Bassa Cove, last week, I was most agreeably surprised by the receipt of a letter from Lient. SEAGRAM, commanding H. B. M. brig *Ternagant*, informing me that he had completed an arrangement with Mr. CANOT of New Cesters, by which it was agreed that he should deliver up all his slaves, one hundred and three in number, to SEAGRAM, to be carried to Sierra Leone, and thenceforth to abandon the slave trade entirely. Another part of the agreement was that CANOT should remain at New Cesters and carry on business as a regular trader under the sanction and protection of the English Government. If SEAGRAM made this agreement by authority, it would seem that his Government intends occupying that place. This would be a dismembering of our territory by cutting off our northern settlements from Sinou and Cape Palmas. Can it be possible that a great nation would descend to such a contemptible and wicked thing? I cannot think it; still, it will be important for you to have measures taken to ascertain their real views without delay.

#### TRADE.

Should Gallinas not again be occupied as a slave mart, and New Cesters remain free from that curse, it will make a mighty addition to the legitimate commerce of this part of the coast; and the trade of the Colony would probably be doubled within the next year. The effect produced last year by the breaking up of Little Bassa was very great throughout the Colony, and the amount of trade has been ever since increasing steadily and rapidly. Within the last three months, Camwood, Oil and Ivory, has been shipped from this place, Marshall and Bassa Cove, to the value of \$25,000, Colonial prices. The intercourse with Bo Poro, and the country beyond, being again unrestricted, and the vast drain of slaves shut up, at least for some time, we may reasonably calculate on a still greater proportionate amount during the whole of next year. There has been an unusual number of trading vessels, principally English, on the coast this season, and they have all filled up in a much shorter time than ever before. Some of them have had to store part of their cargo here, having more than they could carry. In more than one case, they have filled their vessels before half their outward cargo was sold, and had to carry part of it back to England!

#### SCHOONER AND LIGHTERS.

The objections to purchasing a schooner at Sierra Leone are—first, the difficulty of communicating with that place, and the uncertainty of having an order executed properly—and secondly, the want of money to make the purchase! Sometimes there are great bargains to be had, and vessels are occasionally to be found that would suit my purpose admirably—but the purchaser should be on the spot, in person, with the cash in his hand, or he will get cheated.



I again repeat that we need two good, strong, open boats, of from six to eight tons for this place. And for Bassa Cove, two considerably larger, say from ten to twelve tons, built extra strong and decked, with long hatches that will admit a hogshead of tobacco. These, if we have them within the next fifteen months, must come from America. It is surely unnecessary to urge again the necessity of these boats; I may say, however, that the extra expense and loss of time incurred here on every voyage of your ship, amounts to more than the whole four would cost, including the cost of sending them here.

#### EMIGRANTS.

You speak of six hundred coming out next year, but in such a way as to leave me in doubt whether we have much reason to expect them; at all events I cannot regard your remarks as intended to require preparations for receiving that or any less number. I have four houses nearly completed at Bexley, and I hope to have several families ready to move into their own houses at that place before the dry season is over, and thus leave those now occupied for the reception of new emigrants. I have a number of houses, also, nearly finished, up the St. Paul's river, and could accommodate from eighty to one hundred persons there at short notice very comfortably, and probably the same number at Bexley. It would be always desirable to give as definite information as possible with regard to each expected expedition, as to number, character, property, habits, &c.

While on this topic, I am reminded of an inquiry you make, as to how, in case the retail business is given up, we are to furnish emigrants, and pay laborers. When I proposed to give up the retail business, in a former letter, I did not mean to make any change in these respects, but to continue as formerly to supply our own workmen and such emigrants as it should be necessary to aid, by advances during the season of acclimation, with goods and provisions from the store. In these particulars I have made no change in the store here; having only stopped the sale of goods at retail for money, produce or on credit. If, however, when I propose to be pursued at Bassa is approved, some special arrangement with Mr. SHERIDAN to pay out goods on our account at a stipulated price, would be advisable; or, in the case of emigrants, as I have before suggested in this letter, to have provisions of our own given out under the direction of a steward, subject to the supervision of the physician. I have already talked with Mr. S. on this point, but as yet we have not agreed on anything definite.

With regard to the payment of laborers, I have a favorite idea which I believe I have not mentioned to you. It is to make *cash* the sole medium instead of goods. Should you carry on the wholesale business to such an extent as to supply the merchants of the Colony, generally, the money you thus pay out would return through them into your own hands, with the only difference of the profits they would make on the retail of the goods, which, though it be an object to them, would make but a small difference in our account. The moral influence of such a measure would be prodigious, and the poor people would bless you for it. Under the present system of paying every body for their services, in goods, much injustice is done the poor, and a demoralizing influence is exerted upon the community, of which you can form no adequate idea. Take an example: an industrious man, after working steadily through the week, comes to his employer on Saturday afternoon and receives the amount of his wages in goods. Probably not an article that he is obliged to purchase will suit the necessities of his family, and he is compelled to go to another shop and endeavor to effect an exchange, which, if he accomplishes, reduces his pittance some twenty five or thirty per cent. This is one mode; another is to receive his wages,



only in such articles as suit the native trade, and make an excursion into the country, the next week, to convert them into Camwood and Ivory; which are then brought back to town and finally exchanged for something to eat and to wear. This custom is the prolific source of many evils that we all feel, but which fall heaviest on the poor laborer and his family. The supply of a specie medium would relieve the most deserving from the bad necessity to which they are now exposed, and remove temptations from the bad and the idle, to roam the forests and filch the honest earnings of their industrious neighbors at home.

#### CREDITS.

Our accounts for this quarter will show a very considerable reduction in the amount of debts due to the Society throughout the Colony. The balances, as they formerly appeared on the books, in many instances, were deceptive, as they only exhibited the debit side of open accounts. But still there will remain a much larger amount due than I could wish. A large part of the debts are due by the late emigrants. The amount furnished those people was, owing to the peculiar circumstances of their situation, very large. You will recollect that the disturbances in the country, prevented my placing them at Bexley for some months after the houses were ready. In acting up to your repeated and earnest injunctions, "not to let them suffer on any account," though I endeavored to be as economical and judicious as possible, I was obliged to incur very great expense, and you will find large amounts charged to some families which embrace several persons. This source of expenditure will always exist, when poor emigrants arrive, especially helpless families of women and children, who are inevitably thrown upon our bounty to a great extent, and if continued sickness or other misfortunes afflict them, they must remain so for a long time. If we do not care for them, watch, nurse, feed and clothe them, they die. All, in my opinion, that we can do in such cases is to exercise a sound discretion and great economy in the mode and extent of our supplies, and in every possible case make them pay back the amount thus advanced. No emigrant should ever, particularly in America, be told that the Society will furnish him; the most any one ought to be allowed to expect is, that in extreme cases, temporary assistance may be received *as a loan*.

#### PROVISIONS.

You ask if "country provisions cannot be relied on" for the supply of the emigrants expected next year. I answer, no! In all cases we make use of as much of the native productions as we can obtain, and sometimes we can supply the wants of an expedition almost or altogether from them. But the supply of fresh meat is very irregular, and will always be until the Colonists have enclosures for their domestic animals. At present there is a good prospect of seeing many such enclosures; but until they are actually completed, we must not rely on them. With regard to some things, the colonists more than supply themselves, and there is seldom any difficulty in procuring what is wanted of potatoes, cassada, beans, plantains, and sometimes Indian corn. Rice, the great staple of food here, is not generally raised by the colonists, who can buy it so cheap from the natives that they prefer devoting their labor to other objects. I hope before long to see all this changed, and every man who has a farm, depending upon himself for every thing he can raise; but in the mean time we must take things as they are. Rice will probably be very scarce next season, owing to the heavy rains which prevailed unusually long, just at the time the natives were burning their farms. Your seine will help us very considerably in furnishing food, and I hope we shall never hereafter be without one when we have a large num-

ber of emigrants to provide for. You must still furnish us with beef, pork, fish, flour, meal, butter, lard, &c., &c., until we can become more independent in these respects.

#### HEMP.

I am unable to meet your wishes with regard to this article. It grows along the beach, but not in any quantity, and while labor is so high as at present in the Colony, it is difficult to get it gathered. It might doubtless be cultivated to advantage, and perhaps will be by and by, but now the more certain articles of sugar, coffee, and indigo, are engrossing the attention of those who are inclined to agriculture. Last year I offered specie for hemp, but got none; I shall, however, give publicity to Judge HALSEY's proposition.

#### MAP.

A map of Liberia, such as you request, would require more time and care than I can at present bestow upon such a work; however, I shall keep it in view, and endeavor to have it done before I leave for home.

#### AGENCIES TO AMERICA.

Rev. G. BROWN intends visiting the United States in the Spring, and will serve if you wish. Mr. BURNS, of this place, whom I have already mentioned favorably, will also go out in the Spring, probably in company with BROWN, and will accept an agency. One of the very best men in the Colony, however, is JAMES BROWN of Sinou. I have partially engaged him, and if he can get ready, he will go by the first opportunity after the Hobart. His election to the Council, will prevent his going in the Hobart. He is a man of good sense, considerable talent as a speaker, and is devoted heart and soul to the Colony.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

We suffer very much still from the want of draft animals, and we can never hope to succeed in our agricultural operations until the Colony is well provided in this respect. All the jacks brought out last year by myself are dead. The fine large cattle of the interior suffer so much from the effects of the climate on the coast that it is impossible to work them. It has been often tried, and some of our most enterprising men have lost considerable money in the experiment—their oxen always dying before they are accustomed to the yoke. The small cattle of the coast do very well for light work, but they are now difficult to obtain. I have two pairs of them at the farm, now employed in driving the sugar-mill. Six such pairs would be scarcely sufficient to drive it properly. What I have to propose is, that the experiment be tried next year of introducing a few mules and horses from the Gambia or Goree. The horses of that neighborhood are said to be hardy, and it is known that the change to this part of the coast does not injure them. Some years ago there was a horse brought here from Bo Poro which it was said a company of traders had brought to that place from the "long bush," that is from a long distance inland. It was a fine animal, and thrived well here, but was after some time killed. The time is not very distant, I hope, when we shall penetrate the "long bush," and bring back horses and many other things; but at present we must look to other quarters.

#### STEAM POWER.

Would it not be advisable to send a small steam engine of six or eight horse power for the sugar mill? The same fire that raises the steam might also boil the sugar, and thus the expense of carrying on the work would be actually less than by animal power. If the engine was a little larger, a shingle machine, and even a saw-mill might be connected with the sugar mill. What do you think of it?

## MILITARY.

In addition to our supply of Military articles, I am in want of three drums, two for Millsburg and the other for Marshall—they will be paid for by the people—also, one fife. If you could send the brass field-pieces promised in a former letter, they would be of the greatest service, in case of any future expedition into the country. We have no guns at all that could be moved in the woods except with great difficulty and delay. We have no need of any more iron guns at present. Are any of the Congreve rockets to be obtained?

The first of December, the anniversary of the memorable defence of this place by ASHMUN, was observed throughout the Colony as a day of thanksgiving. The forenoon was generally devoted to religious exercises in the churches, and the remainder of the day was occupied with military parades, and, as in good New England, in discussing substantial dinners.

My old friend BOB GREY attended the public celebration at Edina, and was honored, as he deserved to be, on that occasion, by the most distinguished attention—(you are aware that he was the true friend of ASHMUN, and communicated to him the plans of the enemy.) In return for the distinction conferred on him, BOB made a speech, in which he spoke of his union with the Colony in these words—“ ‘Merican man and Bob Grey be one,— ‘pose somebody cut Bob Grey, ‘Merican blood pill:— ‘pose ‘em cut ‘Merican man, Bob Grey blood pill,— ‘pon me soul!”—This last is a favorite expression with which he always affirms what he considers very important.

## LIGHT HOUSE.

As our light house on Cape Messurado is nearly completed, I have to request you will send us some suitable lantern for it. The light will be somewhat less than three hundred feet above the sea. Captain Parsons can explain what kind of a lantern would be proper. After the light is up, we shall charge three dollars additional on all vessels anchoring in the harbor, which will probably pay all the expenses attending it.

## LAWS.

I am very glad you have secured a code of laws, though I have not yet had a moment of leisure to look into them, and can say nothing about their adaptation to our circumstances. As our Colonial Legislature will be in session in a few days, these laws will then undergo a careful examination, together with the whole body of statute laws of the Colony, which after infinite trouble I have compiled and arranged from the old Council books—acts of Governors—resolutions of the Board, &c., &c. After this year I trust we shall be able to have a more systematic and simple body of laws than heretofore.

This morning, Her Britanic Majesty's "Schooner Ascension" arrived here from Sierra Leone, on her way to the Island of Ascension; she reports the "Trafalgar," at Sierra Leone, after a long and stormy passage from Baltimore. I learned from her further particulars about the destruction of Gallinas, and find that in some material particulars, my first information was erroneous. Besides the number of slaves found in the baracoons, Captain DENMAN succeeded in collecting from the native princes upwards of eight hundred; so that the whole number carried to Sierra Leone, is NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY! As soon as the place was captured, the natives, according to the invariable custom of making the most out of all parties, turned against their late guests, the Spaniards, and on condition of being allowed four hours of plunder from the baracoons, agreed to surrender all the slaves that had been placed in their hands for safe keeping. The property



carried off by the natives, and destroyed on the spot, was immense ; my informants say, not less than one million or a million and a half of dollars. One item destroyed, was two thousand puncheons of rum !

A few days after this transaction, Captain DENMAN captured a slaver off Shebar, with three hundred and fifty-nine slaves on board. She was under Spanish colors, and called the *Regulana*.

Gallinas is now in such a state, that treaties could be easily effected with the native princes, for the entire suppression of the Slave Trade, and I have not the least doubt, were a vessel at my command, that in three weeks I could add that splendid country to the territory of the Colony, and secure forever its freedom from the curse of the Slave Trade. New Cesters, too, might be obtained with very little difficulty, as CANOT, it is said, intends leaving the coast for England, in the spring. I feel the most intense anxiety to accomplish these two objects, and if I can do no better I shall be tempted to visit those places in my boat, after the Council adjourns.

#### GALLINAS AND NEW CESTERS AGAIN.

On Saturday, the 26th, I had a visit from Mr. CANOT, and gave him a private interview of some length, in the course of which he assured me most solemnly that he never again would buy or sell a human being ; that he would leave New Cesters within three months, and would gladly give me his assistance in negotiating with the native princes for that place. He brought up here some natives who belonged to this part of the country, to whom he declared their freedom, and placed them under my protection. He had forty domestic slaves, who are now all free, and at liberty to go where they choose. I was glad to find, though he did not directly acknowledge it, that the uncompromising hostility of the Colony to the traffic, and especially our allowing no kind of intercourse with him, had a good deal to do in bringing him to his present position. Since my interview, I have not a doubt that I can obtain New Cesters, but I have less hope than before of acquiring a right to Gallinas. However, I shall try for both.

#### A BELL.

The Baptist church at Bassa Cove has requested me to order a bell for its use. One that will cost, including transportation, one hundred dollars, will be about the right size. It will be paid for on delivery. I hope they will not be disappointed.

The "Trafalgar" has just arrived, but brings me no letters from you.

The garden-seeds sent out from the Patent Office mostly failed, except the cotton and corn, which nearly all has come up, and is growing very well. Seeds seldom come up that are sent out in the usual manner, in papers, whilst those put up in bottles, and sealed, or well corked, never fail. I regret my inability to make any return to Mr. ELLSWORTH for his kindness in this very acceptable present of seed, but hope by the next opportunity to make up some African seeds for him, though there is too little attention paid to the business of horticulture among us yet, to enable me to collect much. I send you two small parcels of African cotton, one of them still containing the seed.

I have had collected, and carefully shipped, most of the articles requested in your letters, though I fear the cold weather on the American coast will injure the fruit and vegetables. There are four hundred lemons, four hundred oranges, eight hundred limes, twelve bushels of potatoes, six bushels of cassada, a cotton bush, a bean vine two years old, some stalks of sugar cane, and three hundred canes of the lime, lemon, orange, and coffee trees. I would have sent some other things from my own garden, but for fear of the cold weather.

I have just obtained some of Mr. DAVID MOORE's leather, tanned at his place on Bushrod island, which I send as a specimen of Liberian manufacture.


With the highest respect and consideration,

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

THOS. BUCHANAN.

Hon. SAMUEL WILKESON,

*General Agent, &c., Washington City.*

 P. S. I am exceedingly anxious about New Cesters, the more so as I have just learned from Lieutenant SEAGRAM some facts that leave no doubt on my mind of the intention, as far as the authorities on this coast are concerned, to keep it under British subjection, (though he says not.) CANOT has received a letter from the new Governor of Sierra Leone, Sir JOHN JEREMIE, and has hoisted the *British flag* at his door. I suspect negotiations are in progress to connect him with a great London trading house, and to make New Cesters the head-quarters of English trade on the coast.

T. B.

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NOTES OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE REV. G. W. BETHUNE, D. D., AT THE UNITARIAN CHURCH, CITY OF WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21, 1841.

WE expected before this time to have been able to give to our readers the eloquent address delivered by the Rev. Mr. BETHUNE, in this city, during the annual meeting of the American Colonization Society, in January last, but have been unable to obtain a report of it, and have to content ourselves by giving a very imperfect sketch of a part of it, from notes taken by an unpracticed hand :

In the long history of the Jews, there was scarcely an administration more wise, prosperous and happy, than that of Samuel ; and yet the account of it is very brief. It was so wise, so prosperous, that the historian has but little to say.

I remember reading the journals of two gifted friends who crossed the Atlantic. One had written a volume of incidents. When he left the port portentous omens were in the sky. The first night out was one of trouble and distress ; soon there were storms of thunder and lightning, and rain and hail, and the winds were fierce and contrary, and the vessel sprung leak, and all lives on board were greatly endangered. This is but a specimen of what he experienced from the beginning to the end of the voyage.

The journal of the other was very brief, recording that on such a day they saw a shark ; that on another a bird flew past the ship ; the wind was fair, the sky clear, and scarcely a sail was changed from the time they left one port till they reached the other, so prosperous was their voyage.

For the same reason, I have little to say to-night of the history of this Society during the past year. It has been so prosperous, has accomplished so much, has met with such favor in the community, that its story can be told in few words.

While the country has been embarrassed, while pecuniary distress has crippled all other benevolent enterprises, and while storms have raged in other seas, the course of this Society has been marked by unwonted prosperity, as is known by its receipts being larger than during any preceding year.

It is a principle every where acknowledged, that those virtues and events which are quiet in their operation, and make the least noise, are the most

useful. God moves the vast machinery of the universe silently. The Gospel, in achieving the most wonderful transformations of human character, operates through a "still, small voice."

Such has been the course of this Society the past year. No loud hurrahs have heralded its march. No thunder of artillery has announced its victories. Silently its peaceful publication has entered the family circle, and called forth the liberal contribution; or the quiet letter, describing its wants and its prospects, has been placed in the hands of the liberal and philanthropic, and has received a welcome reception, and secured an encouraging response.

My honorable friend who has just sat down said, he would leave *abstract principles* to theologians. I am a theologian, and I believe in a species of universal equality. I hear it proclaimed by the voice of the Almighty, that *all men have sinned*; and the precepts of my Saviour teach me to love my neighbor as myself. Wherever a human heart beats, there is my brother, no matter how sable his hue; and as such it is my privilege, as a Colonizationist, to do him good. Slavery existed when our Saviour was upon earth, but he did not heap *anathemas* on those who, I must say, were so unhappy as to be masters; and his chief Apostle, when he had in his care a slave, sent him home to the hand and the heart of his master, as a "brother beloved." I think the Epistle to Philemon is an example of the manner in which we should act and feel in similar circumstances.

It cannot be doubted that, in promoting the scheme of Colonization, we fall in with the general spirit of Christianity, which promises the universal triumph of peace on earth. This promise, like a day-star from on high, has visited us, and, like the pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, it leads us on, under safe protection, and with sure pledges of final triumph.

My friend has said that the whole world was colonized from Eden; that Colonization has led out the spirit of civilization and improvement in all ages of the world. I do not expect to present any thing new on this subject, but there is one striking instance of Colonization to which I will direct your attention. There was once a time when the Jews, the chosen people of God, were all slaves, under the most cruel bondage; and though they, by a peculiar regulation of the country, were separated, to live by themselves, and were taught their own religion, yet they were degraded in the extreme. God determined to free them. How did he do it? He put a sea between them and their oppressors. They became refractory and rebellious, and even sighed for the flesh-pots of Egypt. But God did not abandon them. For forty years he educated them in the wilderness. He taught them by the trials they endured, and prepared them for the enjoyment of freedom.

Let those who become discouraged, or who object to the Colonization of Liberia because so many die, think how many of the children of Israel perished in the wilderness! Of all that vast number that came out of Egypt, only two lived to enter the promised land! Surely, reasoning according to some modern rules, this must have been a very unjustifiable, unpatriotic scheme! Only to think, too, that these poor, deluded creatures, who were thus cheated into the wilderness to die, were the native-born children of the land they left, and were actually *expatriated*.

But it is said there are difficulties about this subject, both in this country and in Africa. We admit this in all its force. There are difficulties; and these difficulties are the very best parts of the system. Necessity is the most effectual teacher. The fabulous history of Rome represents that its founder was nursed by a wolf; and no man and no nation ever has become great, that was not nursed at the shaggy breast of difficulty!



It is said that we have been able to colonise these people but slowly. This is true, and I am glad of it. It would have defeated the very object we had in view, if it had been otherwise. We are all slaves to sin. But God does not emancipate us in an hour. There is first the tender shoot—then the blade—then the ear—then the full grown corn in the ear. It is always impolitic, as well as immoral, to despise the day of small things.

The progress of this Society, and its Colony, may have been slow; but it has been steady and sure. In our school boy days we were taught a lesson of practical wisdom, well to be remembered in our riper years:

“Tall oaks from little acorns grow,”

but the acorn does not become an oak in a day. The poplar grows rapidly, but is fragile and spongy at heart, and soon decays. The oak is the growth of a century. But see what a might there is in its broad branches—how it resists the fiercest blasts, and braves the furious storms of winter.

“When an hundred years are gone,”

Liberia shall yet be that oak! Who would say to that mother, as she sits rocking her tender, helpless, perhaps sickly, infant, and as she carefully watches over it for many long and anxious years,—why do you thus labor in vain? your labor is one of difficulty never to be repaid! It is a useless effort, you never can raise that child, cease your vain attempts. Go into the street and take some one already grown, and lavish all your attention and love on him? Who would say this? none! not the most sceptical—not the most thorough *immediatist*! No! rather wait. Do you see that man, acknowledged by all to be first among his brethren? That noble form once lay in helpless infancy on its mother's arm, as she fondly thought of its future manhood. So they who rock the cradle of young Liberia, of its future greatness *dream*? No! see pledge and promise irresistible.

It has been a question whether circumstances make men, or men sieze upon circumstances to accomplish great purposes; I think neither. I believe that God makes both the men and the circumstances, which united are adapted to the achievement of great ends. He has raised us up the very men that we wanted in times of our greatest need. There was ASHMUN—a man whose name shall not be forgotten, he determined to go, amid difficulties enough to have daunted the bravest; he successfully laid the foundations of an empire not to perish.

Again, when all seemed darkness and uncertainty he sent forth a Cox who labored, sickened, and, as he was dying said, some one must come and take my place! Thousands may perish, but Africa must not be given up. It were easy to suffer martyrdom, when all is done in a moment. But who can anticipate the long disease, in a land of strangers, and not shrink back? Who can think of him who moved forward amid such discouragements to accomplish so great an end, and not admire his fortitude and benevolence?

This kind of fortitude, and self sacrificing benevolence, have been greatly exemplified in our present Governor, BUCHANAN, who, after devoting a year in the arduous and perilous task of re-establishing the Colony of Bassa Cove, when it had been broken up by hostile natives, ventured to return to Liberia in the service of the American Colonization Society, at a time when its affairs, both in this country and in Africa, were most discouraging. By the wisdom and energy of his administration, the despondent Colonists have been inspired with new life, and the operations of the Society in this country have been carried on with confidence and success.

JUSTICE to Mr. TEAGE, editor of the Liberia Herald, requires the publication of the following letter, in reply to one from Judge WILKESON, relative to an exceptionable article in a former number of his paper :

MONROVIA, DECEMBER 10, 1840.

HON. S. WILKESON :—

DEAR SIR,—Your favors of July 21st and September 22d, respectively, arrived safely by the Hobart. Permit me first to thank you for the interest you have manifested to extend my subscription list, and especially for increasing the subscription of the Society one hundred copies. I trust I shall never lose the sense of the favor done me in this instance.

In regard to the offensive article to which your letter of 22d September alludes, I am happy in being able to say, most truly, that, in the press and hurry of other engagements, its tone and manner, and probable effects, in America, altogether escaped my attention. The writer of the article, ever since he has been in the Colony, has been almost constantly in the Society's employment, and surely, if he is thus regarded and treated by the Society, if I had published it with its effect in America full in view, I might be supposed as merely joining my confidence to the confidence of others. As I will not regard your letter as dictatorial, but merely as advisory, in regard to the accomplishment of certain objects, and to prevent certain consequences, I beg to assure you that I shall do nothing that may operate unfavorably against my adopted country, or weaken the hands of its friends on either side of the great waters. In common with colored men, I have certain sentiments. These sentiments, however, as I do not think their being made known could possibly do any good, but would most probably do an injury, I think it proper to repress, reserving to myself, however, the right to enjoy my sentiments, and, when justice and honor require it, to speak them out. I should be altogether unworthy of your confidence and respect, if I should at any time forget for a moment that this is my indefeasible right, or so base and mean-spirited as not to claim to exercise it whenever circumstances should demand it. The scheme of Colonization enjoys my highest confidence and respect, and the circumstances are not easily anticipated that would lead me to speak or write any thing that shall compromise it. Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. TEAGE.

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*From the Liberia Herald.*

DEAR SIR,—The Bassa Cove Sunday School Union held its first anniversary at the Baptist Church in this place, on Monday evening, the second of November.

Although the meeting was unavoidably postponed until a late hour, such was the interest felt in it, that a pretty general attendance of the citizens was realized.

The Superintendent, Mr. CHARLES GRAY, then signifying his intention to remove with his family to Bexley, tendered his resignation, which was therefore accepted : whereupon, HENRY J. ROBERTS was unanimously elected to that office. Other officers in accordance with the constitution were then elected as follows :

LOUIS SHERIDAN, Secretary; A. P. DAVIS, Librarian; BERRYMAN JOHNSON, Treasurer; HANSON LEFER, DAVID MADISON, JOSEPH CLARIDY, Mrs. FLORELLA DAVIS, ROSANNA MADKINS, and THERESA DONALSON, Managers.

The number of regular attendants as learners in this school have been about forty, although a much larger number held connexion with it. This institution owes its origin to his Excellency, Governor BUCHANAN, who informed the writer that he had in his possession a set of Sabbath School Books, published by the American Sunday School Union, which he would bestow on any similar institution in Liberia, but as he knew of none but such as were decidedly sectarian, he could not consistently give them to any.

An effort was then made to form such an Union, and establish the present school, which has, under God, so far happily succeeded. Many things in the course of the past year, have occurred to retard the progress of our children in learning, and none has had a more hurtful influence than the want of co-operation on the part of their parents. Unhappily for the greater part of them, their own want of information may serve as an excuse; but could they divest themselves of their sectarianism and feel that need of instruction as others can and do feel for them, they too, would avail themselves of so good an opportunity of learning something more than the natives of these lands, and would, by their attendance at the place of assembling, set up an impassable barrier to the tendencies of the Sabbath day's intercourse with the natives, which has been continued in spite of our laws, police, and regulations to the contrary: but let this suffice.

Our number has increased to about seventy, who are instructed in the alphabet, spelling, reading and recitation of the Scriptures in the fore and afternoon of each Sabbath day, and we trust that an influence will be given to the habits and taste of those connected with the institution, such as will guide and control their pursuits in after life.

After the close of the business of the meeting, a vote was taken on the propriety of offering our public thanks to Governor BUCHANAN, for having been thus unostentatiously the means of breaking the cord of sectarianism, and placing within our reach, the use of so many valuable tracts as are to be found in the Library of the Bassa Cove Sunday School Union, which was productive of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the officers and managers of the Bassa Cove Union, do hereby tender to his Excellency, Governor BUCHANAN, their most unfeigned and hearty thanks for his invaluable gift of four hundred and three volumes of books, besides many useful maps, cards and plates, now in use in their school; but more especially do they cherish sentiments of respectful regard for the evidence of dignified impartiality by which we have been taught to cast away the cords of prejudice, and unite together in one effort, having for its object the good of all, preferable to the benefit of a few.

Signed in behalf of the officers and managers of the school.

HENRY J. ROBERTS, *Superintendent*.

LOUIS SHERIDAN, *Secretary*.

☞ We beg the attention of our readers, in the South and South-west, to the notice that an expedition will sail from New Orleans about the 15th of April next. We hope all our exchange papers will insert this notice.

Let the Emigrants on all the tributaries of the Mississippi be ready at that time; and, let the patrons of the Society remember, that the expedition just sailed, has drained our treasury. Our funds, then, must be increased, and that immediately. Let all our agents redouble their diligence, as we are doing at this office, to raise money. It will require every possible exertion to provide the means to send off the contemplated expedition.







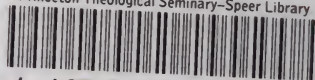
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